of estimated production and employment for the year 2001 -02 (latest available) is as under:-

Year	Production (Rs. crore)	Employment (lakh Nos.)
2001-02	6,90,316	192.23

(b) and (c) The structural reforms initiated by the government which include liberalisation and globalisation, have had mixed impact on the Small Scale Industries (SSI) in India. While these have exposed the SSI sector to greater competition both domestically and globally on one hand, they have on the other provided the SSI sector greater access to markets, cheaper imported raw materials and technologies. The SSI sector has demonstrated the resilience to withstand the competition as it has recorded a rate of growth, which is higher than the overall industrial growth.

Assistance to Singapore in combating terrorism

*224. SHRIRAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore has sought India's assistance in effectively combating terrorism; and

(b) if so, the mutual facilitation of the security services proposed to contain the threat of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in view of the common concerns regarding terrorism, India and Singapore have had periodic exchange of views on this matter, including ongoing cooperation between the security agencies of the two countries.

Issuance of Passports

*225. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by Regional Passport Offices in the country during the last five years and till date, Regional Passport Office-wise and State-wise;

(b) the average time taken by passport offices in issuing passports;